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Activities of the Joint Inspection Unit

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Report by the Director General

The present document provides information on the activities of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) in accordance with the follow-up scheme to recommendations in accordance with decision IDB.24/Dec.11.

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I. Introduction

1. The Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) became a subsidiary organ of the Industrial Development Board by its decision IDB.1/Dec.22. A system of follow-up to JIU recommendations was outlined in document IDB.24/18 and subsequently approved in decision IDB.24/Dec.11. In accordance with the provisions therein, JIU reports will be considered by each regular Board session.

II. Reports and notes submitted by the Joint Inspection Unit

2. A total of seven JIU reports[1] and two notes were received[2] by the Organization since the previous Board document covering this subject (IDB.42/11). Four reports and one note listed below are of relevance to UNIDO:

JIU/REP/2014/1 — An analysis of the resource mobilization function within the United Nations system.

JIU/REP/2014/3 — Capital/Refurbishment/Construction projects across the United Nations system organizations.

JIU/REP/2014/4 — Post-Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations system.

JIU/REP/2015/1 — Evaluation of mainstreaming of full and productive employment and decent work by the United Nations system organizations.

JIU/Note/2014/1 — Use of retirees and staff retained beyond the mandatory age of separation at United Nations organizations.

A further three reports issued by the JIU were not of relevance to UNIDO:

JIU/REP/2014/2 — Review of management and administration in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

JIU/REP/2014/5 — Follow-up inspection to the 2009 review of management and administration in the World Tourism Organization (WTO).

JIU/REP/2014/7 — Review of management and administration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

3. In line with the previous report to the Board (IDB.42/11), the present document no longer contains a summary of JIU reports and notes of direct relevance to UNIDO. All reports and notes of the JIU are readily available on the JIU website. Furthermore, all recommendations and statistics applicable to UNIDO, as well as UNIDO's compliance and comments on recommendations are available through the web-based tracking system (WBTS).[3]

[1] JIU reports and notes in all official languages can be accessed via the JIU website www.unjiu.org/.

[2] At the time this report was prepared.

[3] Please refer to paragraph 5 for information regarding access to WBTS.

4. The reports contain a total of 16 recommendations relevant to UNIDO. UNIDO accepted and complies with 11 of these, one was not accepted, 3 were not relevant and one has not been responded to yet.

III. Implementation of Joint Inspection Unit recommendations at UNIDO

5. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 60/258 of 8 May 2006, requested the JIU to strengthen the follow-up to the implementation of its recommendations, and to include in future annual reports more information on the impact of full implementation of its recommendations. Accordingly, the Unit enhanced its follow-up system through WBTS which is available at the JIU website. Member States can be granted "read-only" access to yearly consolidated data on the status of implementation of recommendations by registering with the JIU through the Focal Point for JIU matters in UNIDO, the Office of Internal Oversight Services.[4]

6. In the last quarter of each year, the JIU requests from, inter alia, UNIDO pertinent information on recommendations issued in the last three years, i.e. status of acceptance (accepted, rejected, under consideration), status of implementation (not started, in progress, implemented) and impact. The JIU then presents the aggregate outcome in its yearly activity report to the United Nations General Assembly.

7. The status of acceptance and implementation for UNIDO for the period 2011-2014 is presented in the table below (in percentage of recommendations issued).

Table[5]

	Acceptance					*Implementation*			
	Not relevant	*Accepted/ approved*	*Rejected*	*Under consideration*	*No information provided*	*Not started*	*In progress*	*Implemented*	*No information provided*
UNIDO	5.63	83.8	10.56	0	0	0.84	12.61	85.71	0.84

8. It should be noted that UNIDO remained one of the organizations showing a consistently strong performance regarding the status of acceptance (80 per cent and above) with regard to the status of considerations of reports by its governing bodies.

IV. Interaction with the Joint Inspection Unit

9. The JIU enhanced its outreach to Member States in New York and Geneva with the aim of raising awareness about recent accomplishments of the Unit and the need to strengthen its oversight capacity. Delegations were briefed on different

[4] Via e-mail: IOS@unido.org.

[5] As per information contained in WBTS.

aspects of the work of the Unit (annual programme of work, results of the self-evaluation and peer review, reform efforts, demand for additional resources, etc.). The participation of inspectors in sessions of the legislative or governing bodies of the Unit's participating organizations in New York, Geneva and Nairobi to introduce the Unit's reports were useful opportunities to enhance dialogue with Member States.

10. The third meeting of the Unit's focal points, held in Geneva in October 2014, was attended by representatives of 21 participating organizations, including UNIDO. The objectives of the meeting were to share information, take stock of developments, discuss issues of concern and make suggestions to address them. The constructive exchange of opinions has contributed to enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation, giving new impetus to the relationship of the Unit with its participating organizations.

11. Interactions with oversight bodies expanded in 2014, through meetings with the heads of oversight at various organizations as well as the Chair of an Audit Committee of one Organization. The Unit chaired the annual tripartite meeting of the three oversight bodies of the United Nations: the Board of Auditors, the Office of Internal Oversight Services and the Unit. The draft programmes of work for 2015 were shared and discussed with a view to avoid overlaps and duplication and achieving further synergy and cooperation on subjects of common interest. Interactions with the Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) continued and included the need to address the issue of the recommendations that the Unit had made to the CEB.

V. Work programme 2015

12. In accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/260 of 4 April 2007, by which the Assembly decided to consider jointly the annual report and programme of work of the JIU during the first part of its resumed session, the Unit launched the preparation of its programme of work for 2015 in July 2014.

13. The Unit invited participating organizations to submit their proposals and, for the first time, oversight services and audit committees of participating organizations were involved in the selection process. A preliminary list of 46 subjects for 2015 and for the biennium 2016-2017 was initially sent to participating organizations. A consolidated preliminary list was considered by the Unit, resulting in the adoption of the programme of work for 2015 and in a preliminary roster for 2016-2017.

14. The programme of work for 2015 includes 11 new projects, ten of which are of system-wide or multiple-organization coverage and one relates to a management review of a participating organization; nine of the reviews are report-related and two are non-report projects. The Unit has also identified a number of potential topics for the biennium 2016-217. The roster is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

15. Of the 11 topics on the 2015 work programme, the below eight would be of interest to UNIDO:

(a) Recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nation system support for small island developing States;

(b) System-wide review of results-based management in the United Nations system (phase II);

(c) Fraud prevention in the United Nations system;

(d) Status of the internal audit function in the United Nations system;

(e) Review of the ombudsman services across the United Nations system;

(f) Succession planning in the United Nations system organizations;

(g) Partnership in the Independent System-wide Evaluation (ISWE): implementation of the pilot phase (non-report);

(h) Review of the acceptance and implementation of the JIU recommendations by organizations (non-report).

16. Further, UNIDO continues to note with appreciation the close cooperation between the JIU and the Secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB).

VI. Action required of the Board

17. In compliance with the provisions of the Statute of JIU Article 11(4), resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993 of the United Nations General Assembly, and paragraph 9 of the system of UNIDO follow-up to JIU recommendations, the Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present document and provide guidance for further concrete action.